

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 7, 23-24, 28, 30-34 and 37 have been amended. Claim 27 has been cancelled. Claims 1-26 and 28-39 are pending and under consideration.

The objection to the drawings is respectfully traversed. FIG. 8 illustrates the claimed angle, which is designed as “ θ .”

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103 are respectfully traversed. Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites the reflective slopes forming a varying angle with respect to the lengthwise direction. Present FIG.8 illustrates this feature, as an example.

In contrast, Tsutsumi discloses that the reflecting portions 28 “extend in a direction perpendicular to the length of the light guide member 27...” Tsutsumi, col.5, ln. 65-66. Thus, this reference does not disclose a varying angle, as claimed.

The Examiner does not rely upon Suzuki in the rejection of claim 1. However, this reference is discussed herein since the Examiner relies upon this reference as teaching that the angle formed by the reflective slopes with respect to the lengthwise direction gradually becomes larger.

It is respectfully submitted that there would have been no motivation to modify Tsutsumi as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner's alleged motivation would have been to provide uniform distribution of illumination. However, Tsutsumi already claims “to output uniform light from every portion of the light guide member 27.” Tsutsumi, col.6, ln. 16-18. Since this objective is already achieved, there would have no motivation to modify the reference. Such modification would not improve performance and could conceivably result in less than uniform output.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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